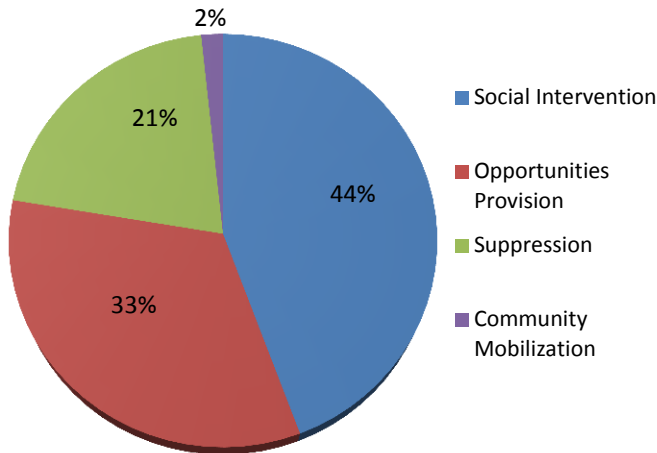


Worcester Shannon CSI, 2015

Funded Partners: Worcester Police Department, Boys & Girls Club, Straight Ahead Ministries, Worcester Community Action Council, Worcester Youth Center

This initiative is funded by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, Office of Grants and Research, Justice and Prevention Division, Daniel Bennett, Secretary

Figure 1. Worcester Shannon CSI 2015
Funding Allocation: \$546,994



Highlights of Shannon Participants:

Funded Population:

- 13 funded programs
- 2,013 youth served
 - 276 known to be gang involved

Education/Employment:

- 15 obtained a high school equivalency diploma
- 28 reentered school after dropping out
- 81 had subsidized summer employment
- 26 maintained year-round unsubsidized employment for over three months

Law Enforcement/Courts and Prosecution:

- 112 hot spot patrols completed
 - 11 arrests of gang members of high impact players
- 617 law enforcement supported home visits completed
 - 53 participants found to be violating probation during home visits
- 59 re-entry participants supported

Personal Development:

- 165 received case management
- 700 participated in youth development
- 36 youth connected to resources via street outreach

Community Gang Problem: According to the Worcester Police Department Gang Unit, there are 20-25 street gangs in Worcester and approximately 1,000 active gang members, half of which are under 25 years old. The most active gangs include: Kilby Street Posse, PVE, and Providence Street Posse. Gangs are increasingly less likely to congregate on street corners and instead use social networking sites to communicate. Gangs' use of social media hampers traditional law enforcement means of identifying gang members. During 2015, five homicide victims were between the ages of 18 and 25.

Shannon Strategy: In 2015, Worcester received \$546,994 in Shannon CSI funding to strengthen its intervention, opportunities provision, and suppression programming, as well as continue information sharing across sectors. Additionally, Worcester continues to refocus efforts to strengthen and improve street outreach, case management, and provide employment and education programs for high-risk youth. As shown in Figure 2 over the past five years, Worcester experienced declines in the number of arrests for aggravated assaults and simple assaults for youth ages 14 to 24 years.

Figure 2. Worcester Violent Arrestees, Ages 14-24

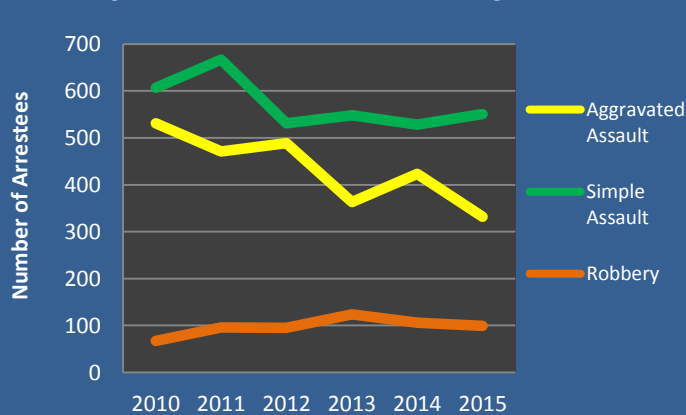
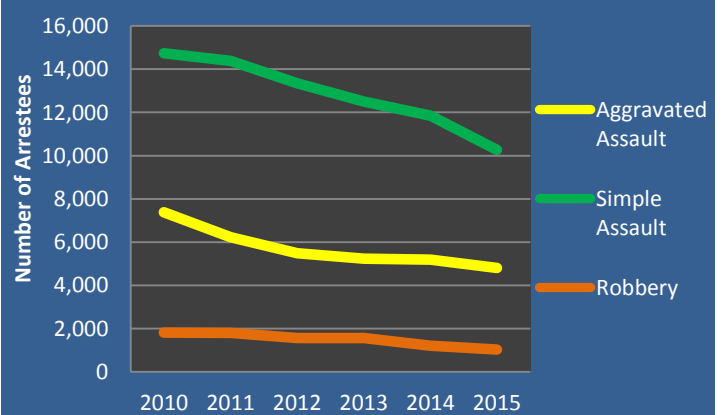


Figure 3. MA Violent Arrestees, Ages 14-24



Prepared in collaboration with the Research and Policy Analysis Division and the Shannon CSI Statewide Research Partner-Clark University.

Information contained in this report is from funding applications, quarterly reports supplied by the site, DESE, US Census, MA Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, and MA State Police Crime Reporting Unit.

Community Risk Factors

Each community receiving Shannon CSI funds must demonstrate a need for funding based on a high number of risk factors present in the community which perpetuates youth and gang violence. In Worcester, about one fifth of the population lives in poverty, almost double the state rate of 11.4%. Almost half of the public school population is categorized as economically disadvantaged. The four-year dropout rate is 7.2%. Given these community level risk factors, the successful transition of many Worcester youth into adulthood is challenging compared to other non-disadvantaged communities.

Table 1. Worcester Risk Factors, 2015

	Worcester	State
Poverty/ Unemployment		
Poverty ^a	21.4%	11.4%
Economically Disadvantaged ^b	49.4%	26.3%
Unemployment rate	5.4%	4.6%
Education/ School Performance		
Graduation rate	80.1%	87.3%
Dropout rate	7.2%	5.1%
ELL Students	35.1%	8.5%
Suspension rate	5.0%	2.9%
Bachelor's Degree (25+)	29.8%	39.4%
Total population (2014 estimate)	183,016	6,745,408
Total public school population (2014-2015)	25,254	955,844

^aAs defined by the US Census Bureau
www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/about/overview/measure.html
^bAs defined by the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
<http://www.doe.mass.edu/infoservices/data/ed.html>

Figure 4. Number and Risk Level of Worcester Shannon Participants by Comprehensive Gang Model Strategy Area



Individual Risk Level Definitions

At-risk youth are in danger of engaging in risky behaviors because of the presence of risk factors in their environment (either home or community). These factors include but are not limited to: lack of healthy role models; poor community education outcomes; high rates of community substance abuse; high rates of community violence; and high unemployment and/or poverty rates.

High-risk youth are exposed to similar risk factors as at-risk youth, and are exposed to additional risk factors such as school failure or early school leaving; substance abuse; court involvement; witnessing violence; or violent victimization.

Proven-risk youth are identified as those youth being perpetrators or victims of shooting or stabbing violence.

Overview: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Comprehensive Gang Model

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts's Shannon Community Safety Initiative (CSI) is modeled after the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's (OJJDP) Comprehensive Gang Model (CGM). The CGM is a multi-sector approach to addressing a community's gang and youth violence problem. After completing a needs assessment, communities assemble a steering committee which uses data to develop strategies in the following five areas:

- **Social intervention programs** for gang involved and proven risk youth include street outreach and case management. These programs reach out and act as links to gang-involved youth, their families, and other traditional social service providers. For high risk youth and at-risk youth, social intervention programs can include drop-in recreation, positive youth development, and other mechanisms to reach young people and connect them to positive adults and constructive activities.
- **Suppression programs** include close supervision or monitoring of gang involved youth and other high impact players by police, prosecutors, probation officers, and other officers of the court. These programs include hotspot patrols, law enforcement home visits, ride-alongs, re-entry, and special prosecutors.
- **Opportunity provision programs** provide education, training, and employment programs for gang involved youth and young people at high risk for youth violence and gang involvement.
- **Organizational change** is the development and implementation of policies and procedures that result in the most effective use of available and potential resources, within and across agencies, to better address the gang problem.
- **Community mobilization** includes educating the community about gang and youth violence trends in their city or neighborhood and involving them in strategies to confront the problem.